

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 EB-11 H-03 NEA-10 AID-20 IGA-02

DRC-01 /117 W

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R 171040Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 568

S E C R E T RABAT 5008

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PFOR MO US

SUBJECT: US-MOROCCAN RELATIONS: FOREIGN MINISTER'S COMMENTS

1. DURING MEETING WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY NEWSOM AND AMBASSADOR NOVEMBER 15, FOREIGN MINISTER BENHIMA COMMENTED ON US-MOROCCAN RELATIONS. HE SAID EVERYONE VERY HAPPY ABOUT SECRETARY'S VISIT AND FOLLOWING NEWSOM VISIT. RELATIONS WERE EXCELLENT. HOWEVER, NOW WAS TIME TO IMPLEMENT THESE RELATIONS IN REALISTIC AND USEFUL MANNER. THERE WERE TWO SECTORS IN WHICH THIS WAS PARTICULARLY DESIRABLE, 1) SECURITY, AND 2) ECONOMY. COUNTRY NEEDS PROSPERITY FOR STABILITY OF REGIME AND SECURITY FOR MOROCCO AS A WHOLE. MOROCCO MUST NOT BECOME LIKE QATAR IN ITS RELATIONS WITH IRAQ. MINISTER SAID IF YOU MUST REMAIN WITHIN THE LIMITS IMPOSED QTE BY CONGRESS, ALL RIGHT, BUT ARE THERE NOT WAYS OF GOING OUTSIDE THOSE LIMITS? WAS THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT NOT ABLE TO DO THIS FOR OTHER FRIENDS SUCH AS IRAN AND SAUDI ARABIA UNQTE.

2. NEWSOM REMARKED THAT HE WAS ON FACT-FINDING TOUR TO SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE. HE COULD NOT ESTABLISH ABSTRACT LEVELS BUT MUST STUDY INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS AND ATTEMPT TO ACHIEVE THEM. WHEN HIS MAJESTY LATER CAME TO WASHINGTON WE SHOULD HAVE THE TOTAL PICTURE. HIS MAJESTY UNDERSTOOD OUR LIMITATIONS WELL. WHEN WE DISCUSS

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THINGS IN A BROADER CONTEXT, THAT MEANS TAKING INTO

CONSIDERATION NOT ONLY OUR REGULAR AID PROGRAM BUT ALSO THE RESOURCES AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK, THE WORLD BANK, PL 480, ETC.

3. BENHIMA RESPONDED, QTE BUT IS MOROCCO NOT WORTH A PRIORITY EVEN WITHIN CONGRESSIONAL ALLOCATIONS? IS THIS NOT IN THE POWER OF THE UNITED STATES EXECUTIVE?

4. NEWSOM SAID THAT IN ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES PERFORMANCE BY MOROCCO MUST ALSO BE CONSIDERED, AND ANY NON-UTILIZATION OF RESOURCES MADE FURTHER ALLOTMENTS DIFFICULT. HOWEVER, WE WOULD FOLLOW UP FURTHER. A USAID DEVELOPMENT TEAM WAS EXPECTED HERE SHORTLY. WE ALSO HOPED ABDELLATIF IMANI, MINISTER OF THE PLAN, WOULD VISIT THE US SOON.

5. FOREIGN MINISTER ADDED THAT IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA IF AFTER IMANI, MINISTER OF COOPERATION DR. MOHAMMED BENHIMA WOULD ALSO GO TO WASHINGTON.

6. BENHIMA ASKED IF THERE WAS ANY WORD AS TO PROJECTED DATE FOR A VISIT BY KING HASSAN, WE REPLIED THAT SECRETARY HAD SAID HE WOULD HAVE A PROPOSAL TWO WEEKS AFTER HIS RETURN TO WASHINGTON. THE SECRETARY WOULD BE RETURNING TO WASHINGTON SAME DAY OUR CONVERSATION TAKING PLACE.

7. BENHIMA THEN SUGGESTED THAT MAY WOULD BE A GOOD DATE BECAUSE KING IS PRESSED BY TWO OTHER COUNTRIES TO VISIT THEM AROUND THAT TIME OF THE YEAR.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973RABAT05008
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: RABAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731127/aaaaatoa.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04-Jan-2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <15-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-MOROCCAN RELATIONS: FOREIGN MINISTER'S COMMENTS
TAGS: PFOR, MO, US, (NEWSOM, DAVID D), (BENHIMA, AHMED TAIBI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005